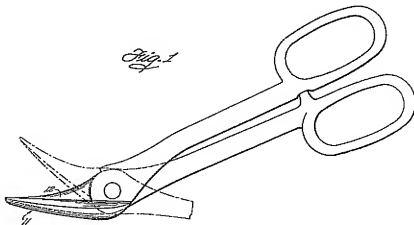


REMARKS

Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview held on October 19, 2011. The parties (John G. Posa and Examiner Clark Dexter) discussed claims 1 and 40 as well as prior art Patent No. 2,264,840 to Isaac. The Examiner noted that the guide portions 21 and 23 were discussed as splaying structure that distinguished over Isaac. The Examiner also noted that such splaying structure has not been sufficiently claimed. For example, the claims were previously amended to include a recitation of "a guide portion" but did not include a guide portion on both sides of a cutting blade. Applicants believe that the amendments filed herewith provide further clear distinction from the prior art, in particular the Isaac patent. In terms of support, two guide portions on the first cutting member are called out as features 21 and 23 in Figures 34a and 34b, and described on page 17, lines 25 to 28, of the application as filed.

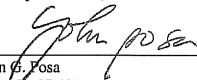
The tin snips of Isaac are for cutting a malleable sheet that deflects readily, particularly perpendicular to the plane of the sheet. The Isaac tin snips do not include guide portions on both sides of a single cutting member to assist in controlling splay. Where a portion of the moving cutting member of Isaac is apparently perceived to show a guide portion, the member does not have two such guide portions; nor does the member have guide portions arranged on opposite sides of a line of cut. As shown in the Figures of Isaac, reproduced below, the snips of Isaac simply include a platen blade 11 and a moving blade 12:



Apart from the changes to the independent claims, additional features have been added as new dependent claims 46 to 49, specifying that the guide portions splay the cast vertically and/or horizontally; specifying that the first guide portion (21) splays the cast downwards, and the second guide portion (23) splays the cast upwards; and specifying that the guide portions are ramped guide portions.

Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney at the telephone or facsimile numbers provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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